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The San Bernardino County Sun (San Bernardino, California) · Wed, Jun 30, 1993 · Page 36
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'Full House' twins get early jump on ABCs in business

The ABC Television Network has entered into an overall agreement with Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, the 7-year-old twins who have starred as Michelle on ABC's "Full House" series since its debut.

Their newly formed Dualstar Productions will produce series and a movie for television and develop other programming. It will also give ABC participation in the twins' next record album and music-video collection in which ABC will receive royalties from sales of both products. The announcement was made by Ted Harbert, president, ABC Entertainment.

Under the terms of the accord, Dualstar Productions will develop a new series which will star the Olsen twins following their final season on "Full House," with a 13-episode commitment. They also will star in a Dualstar/Green-Epstein Productions television movie tentatively titled "Double, Double, Toil, and Trouble," which will be telecast this Halloween.

Their first film, "To Grandmother's House We Go," aired last season during the Christmas holidays and ranked number 10 for the week. Earlier this year, the Olsens starred in a Dualstar/dick clark productions Mother's Day special with guest stars Tim Allen and Jerry Van Dyke.

"Full House" begins its seventh season this fall and is currently the longest-running comedy series on ABC's schedule.

TV NOTES

Mary-Kate, left and Ashley Olsen twins portray 'Michelle'

Glory days premieres

"Barcelona '92: 16 Days of Glory," Bud Greenspan's two-hour documentary about athletes at the 1992 Olympic Games, makes its world premiere on the Disney Channel on Aug. 15 at 9 p.m.

The film features profiles and interviews with track and field competitors Evelyn Ashford of the United States, Derek Redmond of Great Britain, Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia, Elana Meyer of South Africa, and Khalid Skah of Morocco; swimmer Pablo Morales of the United States; rowers Silken Laumann of Canada and the Searle Brothers of Great Britain; gymnast Trent Dimas of the United States; judo competitor Yael Arad of Israel; and cyclist Erika Salumae of Estonia.

Greenspan also produced "16 Days of Glory" on the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary, Canada, and the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea, all of which aired on The Disney Channel.

Supreme deal

Diana Ross has signed a three-movie deal with ABC and will launch a new worldwide tour, planned for next year. The TV movie deal — she'll star in two and be executive producer of the third — comes on the heels of several other Ross projects outlined at a New York press conference. They include a four-CD boxed set collection from EMI — titled "Forever, Diana" — of Ross' three-decade recording career; the entertainer's first book of memoirs, "Secrets of a Sparrow," to be published by Villard; and a docudrama from Ross' own Anaid Film Productions based on her life, which she said she hopes will hit the market in the fall — at the same time as the CD set and book.

The TV movies will mark her first substantial acting work since "The Wiz" in 1978.

— From Sun News Services

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Apr 11, 2025

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